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Mr. McFadden

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**Judaism**

Judaism began around 2000 B.C. when Abraham, father of Judaism, made a covenant with God. The basic beliefs of Judaism include, the belief in one God and he is unique, the words of the prophets are true, prayer is to be directed to God alone, God will reward the good and punish the wicked, God knows all thoughts and deeds, Moses was the greatest prophet, the Torah was given to Moses, there is no other Torah, the Messiah will come, and the dead will be resurrected. Jews worship in Synagogues, where they are led by Rabbis.

One of the most important Jewish holidays is called the Passover. The Passover is the holiday which celebrates when the Hebrew people were freed from the Egyptians. God called down plagues against the Egyptians until the Pharaoh agreed to release the Hebrews and allow Moses to lead them to a better place. The Passover is celebrated in Israel by seven days of rest.

Capital punishment in Jewish courts were and still are commonly thought to have utilized the death penalty, but in reality it hardly ever happened, especially after Israel eliminated the death penalty for trial reasons. The Old Testament claims that any crime a man commits, he will receive equal punishment in return. To completely understand the Jewish laws, you are supposed to read the Torah, as well as the Talmud, and be informed by a Rabbi of the laws. Rabbis who wrote the Talmud made the death penalty nearly impossible to use on any criminal. Therefore, there were and are few people who have been executed by the Jewish law during that time, and still today.